

(b) what steps are being planned to make the travel comfortable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) 4607/4608 Samjhauta Express runs between Atari and Lahore and 4001/4002 Delhi-Atari Link Express runs between Delhi and Atari. Whereas the conditions in 4001/4002 Delhi-Atari Express train itself were not reportedly unsatisfactory, the following measures have been taken towards bringing about further improvement:

1. It has been made fully reserved train.
2. Reservation of accommodation has been brought on computer network.
3. Sleeper class coaches with cushioned berths have replaced general class coaches.

Garib Rath trains passing through Uttar Pradesh

521. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to introduce more "Garib Rath" trains in the country in the near future;

(b) if so, the number of such trains and their to and fro destination and whether they would be daily, Bi-weekly or weekly; and

(c) the number of such trains that shall pass through Uttar Pradesh and most particularly Azamgarh railway station and their stoppage time at this railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the Railway Budget 2007-08, it has been proposed to introduce 8 pairs of Garib Rath trains connecting various state capitals, which are as follows.

1. Secunderabad-Yesvantpur Garib Rath Express (Tri-weekly)
2. Jaipur-Bandra (T) Garib Rath Express via Ahmedabad (Tri-weekly)
3. Kolkata-Patna Garib Rath Express (Tri-weekly)

4. Bhubaneswar-Ranchi Gari Rath Express (Tri-weekly)
5. Tiruvanthapuram-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Garib Rath Express (Bi-weekly)
6. Kolkata-Guwahati Garib Rath Express (Bi-weekly)
7. New Delhi-Dehradun Garib Rath Express (Tri-weekly)
8. Raipur-Lucknow Jn. Garib Rath Express (Bi-weekly)

(c) 2 pairs of Garib Rath trains namely New Delhi-Dehradun Garib Rath Express (Tri-weekly) and Raipur-Lucknow Jn. Garib Rath Express (Bi-weekly) will pass through Uttar Pradesh. However none of these will serve Azamgarh railway station.

Electrification of Thrissur-Guruvayoor Section

522. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is considering a proposal for electrifying the 30 kilometre section between Thrissur and Guruvayoor under Southern Railway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what amount would be made available during 2007-08 for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The electrification of Thrissur-Guruvayoor rail line of Southern Railway has been sanctioned as a material modification to Ernakulam-Trivendrum electrification project to which Rs. 15.00 crore has been allocated during 2007-08.

Corruption in supply of ballast for rail tracks

†523. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the corruption in supply of ballast for rail tracks;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.